

economic viability of our communities and paving the way for our students to compete and succeed in a global workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Helios Education Foundation for serving our communities, and in particular, I commend its Founder and Chairman, Vince Roig, for his passion and commitment to this work. In addition, I congratulate Helios Education Foundation's Board of Directors and Staff for the tangible and critical impact the Foundation has had over the past 10 years. Most importantly, I am excited about the long-lasting and transformative change Helios Education Foundation will have on our community in perpetuity through education.

**HONORING THE EXCEPTIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AC-  
CEPTED INTO THE WAUKEGAN  
TO COLLEGE PROGRAM**

**HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 14, 2014*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Jazmin Bahena, Luz Cruz, Roberto Flores, Vanessa Flores, Maria Gaytan-Martinez, Marely Guadiana, Hansel Lopez, Mirian Lopez, Deshawn Mitchell, Stephanie Pakula, Victor Solano, Mauricio Sosa Cardenas, Fernando Tovar and Magrullio Zuniga for their admittance into the Waukegan to College program.

Launched in 2009, W2C seeks to advance local students' intellectual and emotional development, cultivating a strong commitment to community and a profound belief that they can build a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities. By establishing high academic expectations and counseling students and their families on the college application process, W2C helps students realize their full potential by making the dream of college a reality.

All first-generation college students, these young people were selected for the W2C program because of their impressive academic achievements as well as their contributions to their communities. As leaders in the classroom, these students demonstrated tremendous resolve in overcoming difficult obstacles as well as dedication to positively contribute to society.

In order to revitalize our communities, we must dedicate ourselves to rebuilding the ladders of opportunity so that all Americans are assured the prospect of personal advancement. This requires providing each and every child, regardless of zip code, access to a high quality, affordable education.

When our nation's talented young people pursue their passions and follow their dreams, they accomplish far more than personal growth. By applying to college and achieving individual success, these young leaders embody and advance an ethos that permeates into all aspects of society. Their efforts inspire hope and promise among their families, friends and neighbors, igniting a social transformation that has the potential to dramatically reshape our local communities and our nation.

These students truly are Champions of Change. I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING EMERGING BUSI-  
NESS LEADERS UPON RECEIVING  
THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE 2014 YOUNG PROFES-  
SIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 14, 2014*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the founding members of Emerging Business Leaders on receiving the 2014 Young Professional Leadership Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. This award acknowledges a group of young professionals that demonstrate commitment to the Buffalo Niagara Region.

Originally called the Creative Class Consortium, Emerging Business Leaders is a network of over 500 smart and dynamic professionals under the age of 40. Four years ago, Chamber President Colleen DiPirro adopted a non-traditional business model, and reached out to local firms and invited employees under the age of 40 to create a dialogue that encourages their engagement. These members come from different industries, have different ideas, but are all committed to innovation. With the creation of the Emerging Business Leaders, these professionals were given a network to become community stewards.

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the enormous contribution that comes with the foundation of Emerging Business Leaders to the Buffalo Niagara region. This group of young and progressive individuals will keep the Amherst Chamber of Commerce relevant, benefitting the entire region.

**RECOGNIZING VICE ADMIRAL WIL-  
LIAM D FRENCH ON HIS RETIRE-  
MENT FROM THE UNITED  
STATES NAVY**

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 14, 2014*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vice Admiral William D. French on his retirement from the United States Navy after 35 years of Federal service. Vice Admiral French retired as the Commander, Navy Installations Command.

Admiral French earned his commission as an officer in the United States Navy through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program in 1979. In addition to his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, Admiral French holds a Master of Science degree from Naval Postgraduate School in 1986 and a Master of Arts from the Naval War College in 1999.

He served at sea on a number of submarines including as Executive Officer on the USS *Helena* (SSN 725) and commanded the USS *Salt Lake City* (SSN 716). Admiral French also served as Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron 11; as Chief of the Strategy and Policy Division at U.S. Strategic Command and Commanded Submarine Squadron 3 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Throughout his distinguished naval career, Admiral French has worked tirelessly to de-

fend his nation and develop strong community relationships wherever he was stationed. Admiral French's commitment to community was readily apparent in his second flag officer assignment serving as commander, Joint Region Marianas and concurrently serving as U.S. Defense Representative to Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau. Admiral French was one of the most popular and effective Admirals to have served on Guam.

In particular, he advocated, prepared for and assisted in the military buildup on Guam, and he did it through establishing strong relationships within the community. He also worked closely with then Brigadier General Doug Owens, Commander 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base, on implementing the Joint Region concept on Guam. There were many unique and difficult challenges in implementing this requirement from the 2005 round of BRAC but their framework endures to this day.

Moreover, he prioritized direct and open lines of communication with our community at all the Navy regions he served. On Guam, he demonstrated a keen understanding of the Chamorro culture that is an important part of understanding Guam and relating to our local community. Admiral French demonstrated a model of leadership that should be emulated by any military officer. He established ground rules on Guam which are still in place today.

I also commend Vice Admiral French for his leadership as Commander, Naval Installations Command. He provided leadership of the shore-based Navy installations at a time of budget constraints. He has been able to ensure that the sailors and marines are provided with shore facilities that support their mission and their families. Despite the budget challenges he ensured that the Navy continued to invest in improving the housing and facilities that support Marines and sailors.

Despite his tremendous accomplishments, Vice Admiral French and his family suffered an unimaginable tragedy earlier this year. On January 24, 2014 Admiral French's daughter, Teresa was tragically killed. Admiral French and his family stood strong in the face of adversity and were an example for us all to follow. In the days following Teresa's passing there was a tremendous outreach to his family from any community in which Admiral French served or where his family lived. That was a clear demonstration of the strength of his personal bonds and leadership wherever he served his nation.

I have enjoyed working with Admiral French when he was on Guam as well as during his tenure as Commander, Navy Installations Command. On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful nation, I commend Vice Admiral French for his many years of dedicated service to our country. I wish him the best in his retirement.

**COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
SARDAR GANGA SINGH DHILLON**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 14, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Mr. Honda, rise today to commemorate the distinguished life of Sardar